

Bible Stories for Adults

Palm Sunday

Luke 19:28-44

Opening

Gathering: What fanfare would Jesus receive today if He rode into our town?

Today's Focus: Jesus no longer concealed His Messiahship and clearly revealed it as He entered Jerusalem.

Key Verses: *See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. Matthew 21:5*

They took palm branches and went out to meet Him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel!" John 12:13

Opening Prayer

Lesson

A Well Publicized Miracle (*John 11*)

What happened outside Jerusalem 3-4 months before Jesus' last trip to Jerusalem?
John 11:1, 17-19, 43-45

How did this miracle impact the disbelieving Jewish leaders in nearby Jerusalem?
John 11:46-48, 53

Did Jesus return to Galilee – where He had spent the bulk of His ministry to that time?
John 11:54

O' Little Town of Jerusalem (*John 11:55-57*)

What was expected of every adult male Jew who lived within 20 miles of Jerusalem?
John 11:55

Did only Jews living nearby go to Jerusalem for Passover (and Pentecost and Feast of Tabernacles)?
Acts 2:1, 5, 9-11a

Note: Thirty years later, the Romans counted 256,000 lambs sacrificed for Passover
Jewish regulations called for at least 10 people per lamb
There were therefore at least 2.5 million Jews in Jerusalem during the Passover
Jerusalem's normal population was around 50,000

The city of Jerusalem was roughly the size of Nassau Bay proper (0.5-1.0 square miles)
With this many people packed into such a small area, would Jesus be able to go but remain hidden?
John 11:56-57

On the Road Again (*Luke 18:31-19:10*)

Would Jesus go to Jerusalem for the Passover or would He find it too risky?
Luke 18:31-34

How did Jesus get an opportunity to build people's faith on His way to Jerusalem?
Luke 18:35, 41-43

How else did Jesus reveal His purpose in Jericho?
Luke 19:1-2, 5, 7, 9-10

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Another Stop (*John 12:1-11*)

After spending time with Zacchaeus, did Jesus then head straight to Jerusalem?

John 12:1-2

Was this dinner held at Mary, Martha and Lazarus' house?

Mark 14:3

What happened after dinner?

John 12:3

Who had a problem with Mary's act of worship?

John 12:4-6

How did Jesus respond to Mary's wastefulness?

Mark 14:6-9

How did Judas react to this reprimand?

Mark 14:10-11

How seriously did the chief priests want to get rid of Jesus?

John 12:9-11

Note: The dinner and story in John 12:2-8 likely took place the following Tuesday or Wednesday night

Bethphage Limo Service (*Matthew 21:1-5*)

What did Jesus do the day after arriving in Bethany?

John 12:12

What did Jesus do as they approached the town of Bethphage?

Matthew 21:1-3

Why would Jesus want a donkey colt to ride into Jerusalem?

Matthew 21:4-5

Riding a Donkey's Colt (*Luke 19:28-31*)

Why was it inappropriate for Jesus to ride in on a horse?

Revelation 6:2

What was the meaning of a king riding a donkey?

Judges 10:3-4 (2 Samuel 19:26; 1 Kings 1:33)

Besides fulfilling Zechariah 9:9, what was the significance of using the colt instead of the adult donkey?

Luke 19:30

Why was this significant?

1 Samuel 6:7-8 (Deut. 21:1-9)

Did the disciples recognize the significance of what Jesus was doing?

John 12:14-16

Finding the Donkey's Colt (*Luke 19:32-34*)

How long would it take the disciples to find the donkey and the colt?

Mark 11:2

Were they able to find the colt easily?

Mark 11:4

Did anyone see the disciples take the colt?

Luke 19:32-34

Did the owners allow them to take the colt?

Mark 11:5-6

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Jesus is Coming (*John 12:17-19*)

What did the people traveling with Jesus do while waiting for the colt?

John 12:17

What did people do when they heard that Jesus was coming?

John 12:18

Wasn't there danger that the religious leaders would hear about Jesus coming and have Him arrested?

John 12:19 (Luke 19:39)

Why didn't the Jewish leaders arrest Jesus at this time?

Matthew 21:46

Spreading Cloaks (*Luke 19:35-36*)

Wouldn't it be uncomfortable for a king to ride on the rough back of a donkey?

Luke 19:35

How did the crowd follow the disciples' lead?

Luke 19:36

What were they saying about Jesus when they did this?

2 Kings 9:13

Spreading Branches (*John 12:13*)

What did people do if they didn't have a cloak to spread before Jesus?

Matthew 21:8

How could they find enough branches to cut along the road-side? Was this a road-side deforestation?

Mark 11:8

The closest palm branches were in Jericho. Why do we call this Palm Sunday?

John 12:13

Where would they get the palm branches?

Psalms 118:27

What event would the Jews remember through this scene?

2 Maccabees 10:7

Hosanna (*Luke 19:37-38*)

What did the people do as Jesus got closer to Jerusalem?

Luke 19:37

Was Jesus at the front or the back of this procession?

Matthew 21:9

What did the crowd shout?

Mark 11:9

Where did they get these words?

Psalms 118:25-26

Were they just singing Passover songs of praise or were they directing this to Jesus?

Mark 11:10

Besides the Lazarus miracle, why might the people see Jesus as the Messiah-King?

Luke 19:11

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Noisy Stones (*Luke 19:39-40*)

Did everyone in the crowd get into the celebration of Jesus' entry as Messiah-King?

Luke 19:39

How did Jesus respond?

Luke 19:40

Concern for Jerusalem (*Luke 19:41-44*)

Did Jesus bask in this praise-filled attention He was being given?

Luke 19:41

Why did Jesus cry for Jerusalem?

Luke 19:42

What would happen as a result?

Luke 19:43-44

How did He repeat this concern for others when the attention was again focused on Him?

Luke 23:27-31

Note: Romans attacked and destroyed Jerusalem in 70 AD exactly as Jesus described

He Has Arrived (*Mark 11:11-19*)

What happened when Jesus entered Jerusalem?

Matthew 21:10-11

What did Jesus do in Jerusalem?

Mark 11:11

What did Jesus do the next day (Monday)?

Mark 11:12-19

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. What have you sacrificially given to God purely out of worship?
(*John 11:1-8; Isaiah 43:23-24; Mark 10:28-30; Luke 21:1-4; Romans 12:1; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, 12*)
2. How have you reacted when you have heard of the generosity of others?
(*Mark 14:3-11; Acts 4:32-37; 5:1-11; 1 Corinthians 11:1; 2 Corinthians 8:1-9; Hebrews 13:7*)
3. How would Jesus be received if He rode into your town today?
(*Matthew 21:8-11; Luke 4:16, 28-29; 9:52-56; 10:5-16; John 12:12-13; Acts 11:13*)
4. How would you react if you heard that Jesus was coming into your town today?
(*Mark 11:8-9; Luke 9:57-62; 19:37-39; 23:8-11; Matthew 13:54-58; Acts 17:11*)
5. If you saw Jesus coming into your town, would you go tell others so they could come and see Him?
If so, who have you told about Jesus who came into our world so they could come and see Him?
(*Mark 11:8-9; Luke 19:39-40; John 1:29-37, 41-46; 4:28-30, 39-42; 12:17-19; Acts 17:22-23*)